

- Rehabilitation Services for the Blind provides an opportunity for persons who are deafblind to develop an employment goal and achieve success with assistance through federal & state programs of vocational rehabilitation. Other services such as independent living or older blind services may also be provided.

- Missouri Deafblind Technical Assistance Project provides supports to education and other agencies which provide services and support to children and youth with deafblindness (birth through 21 yrs) throughout the state of Missouri.

Other participating agencies:

- CCVI: Children's Center for the Visually Impaired
- North Kansas City School District
- Missouri Assistive Technology
- Missouri Schools for Severely Disabled

For additional information, please contact:

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It is the policy of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability in its programs or employment practices as required by Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Inquiries related to Department programs may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/Age Act), 6th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0480; telephone number: 573-526-4757 or Relay Missouri (800) 735-2966.

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Greater Kansas City Deafblind Task Force

The Mission of the Greater Kansas City Deafblind Task Force is to assist individuals with deafblindness and their families in achieving full access to the community through collaboration.



Serving surrounding Kansas City
and St. Joseph Missouri Counties

Our beliefs...

The Greater Kansas City Deafblind Task Force holds certain fundamental beliefs:

- Deafblindness creates unique needs for individuals with deafblindness and their families;
- Individuals with deafblindness and their families have a right to quality of life reflecting dignity, self-respect, autonomy, personal choice, and community integration well as the right to the supports that embrace these values; and,
- The community's vision creates the future.

Membership

The Task Force's membership includes individuals with deafblindness, their family members, and representatives from educational and adult service agencies that support individuals with deafblindness.

The Task Force meets monthly to address unmet needs of individuals with deafblindness in our community. This is done by

identifying issues facing individuals with deafblindness, their families, and their supporting agencies. The Task Force then addresses these issues by identifying resources, providing consultation, and other assistance.



What is Deafblindness?

The term "deafblind" does not always mean totally blind and totally deaf. The majority of individuals with deafblindness have some residual hearing and/or vision. In combination, however, their losses create severe communication, developmental, and learning needs resulting in unique educational, habilitational, and recreational challenges.

Participating Area Agencies:

A *partial* list of agencies participating on the Task Force includes:

- Alphapointe Association for the Blind promotes the interest of the individuals with blindness and deafblindness in the Kansas City Metro Area through employment and training.
- MERIL is a community-based, non-residential program, designed to promote independent living and to enhance the quality of life for persons with disabilities and persons who are aging, by empowering them to control and direct their lives and thus participate actively and ad independently in society.
- EITAS is the Developmental Disabilities Services Board of Jackson County. EITAS is a subdivision of Jackson County government that provides funding and services for their citizens with developmental disabilities.